

11: Dakeyne

K-5

(1962-1964) 1966

QJ23 Orokaiva QJ23
Yega

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443
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Gona villages co-operative store. Calculation of shareholders' rebates, December 1962.

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Gona villages co-operative store at Cape Killerton.

- 372 sea breezes, during the dry season (May to August) drive fires across the grasslands against the forest wall.

HOUSING AND VILLAGE LIFE

- 342 The Yega make three types of buildings each with a separate function; the vernacular names for these buildings are *mando*, *dobo* and *gaga*. The *mando* is the building where a man and his family normally live. It is a well-built structure about sixteen to twenty feet by twelve to sixteen feet, set on hardwood piles, with the floor about four feet above the ground. The framework is of untrimmed bush poles about four to six inches in diameter, nailed together (the fifty or sixty cents for nails is the only cash expense in building the house). The floor is of split lengths of limbon palm, laid with the convex trunk side uppermost so that there are no splinters. Walls are made of lengths of the two inch thick midrib of sago palm fronds lashed vertically. The lashing usually leaves a space of quarter to half an inch between each pair of strips allowing any cooling breeze to blow through at all times. The roof is thatched with sago-leaf 'tiles'. The house is divided internally into two or three rooms, with a verandah in front.

- (824) The entrance ladder is frequently the worst constructed part of the house. It is often rickety and dangerous, but even small children and dogs seem to negotiate it without falling.

- (417) Cooking is usually done in front of the house or, in wet weather, underneath it. Some houses have a mud hearth three feet square and four inches thick, or the top of a forty-four gallon drum covered with two inches of sand, in one of the rooms to serve cooking and heating purposes. Food is cooked in a pot balanced over the fire on three stones or, nowadays, on three empty meat tins. Furniture is simple. There are no tables, chairs, or bedsteads. Sleeping mats are of woven pandanus leaf.

- 252 There is often a light blanket or two, baskets and bags hang from the ceiling and in every house is a box or suitcase containing the wife's shell jewellery and the husband's ceremonial dancing finery, woven bracelets, feather head dresses, and shell and dog-teeth masks. Another box or suitcase contains the couple's

- 354
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[P.10-B]